

MERCATOR:

Commerce Retrieved,

From Thursday, June 3. to Saturday, June 5. 1714.

Nothing can carry our Woollen Trade away but our Woolls.

Not carrying our Sheep away will do it.

Our Sheep will not hold their Wooll one Year in France.

Our Hounds lose their Noses.

Our Bull-dogs their Courage.

Our Horses their Swiftness.

Our Game-cocks their Mettle,

And our Sheep their Wooll.

Why else do the French want any of our Wooll?

They have had Sheep of ours enough many Ages ago.

This is the Security of our Manufactures.

IN the last *Mercator* it was enquir'd what hurt the People flying in Case of Persecution would do to our Woollen Manufactures?

It may be that Envious People with whom this Age abounds, may be so kind and so just to this Author of this, as to say, that he is Writing for Persecution; indeed they may as well say so as say many other Things which they do: But to obviate such Objections, it may suffice to say, the *Mercator* protests against such Construction in the beginning, and affirms, he has no Views that way, and will not allow that those Disputes have any relation to Trade, and ought not to be blended together.

But if Persecution should fall in, as God forbid it should, yet the *Mercator* says it would not affect our Manufacture in the manner suggested, viz. by carrying our Workmen abroad, and their Teaching other Nations to work our Goods.

The *Mercator* agrees it may affect our Trade in general, but there is to be a Distinction made between Trade in general and Manufactures in particular; our Manufactures will suffer in every thing that is a Discouragement to Trade in general, because they are a part of Trade. But as to carrying away the Art of Making, the Workmen, and the Manufacturing Part, and setting it up in foreign Countries; this is what the *Mercator* says there is no Danger, no Possibility of, because there is no Materials to be had abroad for it.

The last *Mercator* has said enough to prove, that AS our having the Substance of the Manufacture, viz. the WOOLL in our own Hands exclusive of the whole World, was the only Reason which first brought the Manufacture hither from the Low-Countries, which

some Years ago had the whole Trade to themselves; SO the keeping the said Wooll at home from the Hands of the whole World, we might challenge the whole World to attempt our Manufactures, and that altho' we might suppose our People, whether by Discontent, Persecution, or any other Unhappiness at home, which we pray God to prevent might be forced, or voluntarily inclin'd to run abroad and to settle in foreign Parts; yet if the Sheep were not carry'd away too with the Wooll on their Backs, it would not do what these People suggest, or carry the Manufactures abroad with them; because it seems plainly, that we have no Artists in England, however ingenious in Manufactures, who could ever yet arrive to the Art of making our Woollen Manufactures WITHOUT WOOLL; if such People were among us indeed, it would be very well worth while for the Nation to find some way or other to prevent their going out of the Nation, for they would ruin us all. But the *Mercator* comes to add a farther Particular, viz. that if our Sheep were carry'd abroad too, and the Wooll on their Backs, yet that it would not effectually do this Work: It is true, it would do a proportion of Injury, viz. so much and so long as that Wooll on their Backs lasted, and perhaps longer, for the same Sheep would bear Wooll again.

Perhaps this may be cavill'd at and look Mysterious; but if any please to look into the Thing with more Exactness, they will be soon convinc'd if they are disposed to judge impartially.

It cannot be question'd, but that as the French have great Quantities of Wooll shipp'd off from hence and from Ireland every Year, nay every Day, notwithstanding the Severity of



of our Laws to the contrary: So they may have, and really have many of our Sheep carry'd away alive; which Sheep, were it of any Effect to them, may be probably supposed, not only to carry over our Wooll, but to breed the like Wooll there.

But here lies the Mistake, for were our Sheep able to produce the same Wooll in France as they do in England, the French would long ago have had as good Wooll as England, and as much of it. They have had hundreds, nay in time it may be said thousands of our Sheep carry'd over into France, and they would never have had the Wooll to fetch every Year, if they could have produc'd it at home from the Breed of our Sheep.

The Case is thus, the Sheep change their very Nature by the Difference of the Soil, and cannot by any Methods be brought to preserve the Fineness of their Wooll, no not for one Season; if English Sheep are carry'd over unshorn, the Wooll will be as it was when they went off, that is no Mystery, because the Wooll was actually grown before they went away from hence, but take off that Fleece, and turn them abroad to feed; this is certain, the very next years Wooll shall be quite another Thing, it shall decline and be coarse, short and ragged, till in two or three Year declining more and more, it shall be meer Dog's Hair, and not fit to make the coarsest Kerlie, or Half-thick that we make in the North.

This is no Speculation but an Experience, the Matter of Fact is out of Question; if it were not so, why have not the French had Wooll enough many Ages ago, as we find the Spaniards had, who as all agree, deriv'd that Growth of Wooll from a Breed of English Sheep, which the Soil in Spain has improved to an exceeding Perfection. The Reason is evident; the Wooll like the Fruits of the Earth, follow and obey the Climate and the Soil, and they will not improve in some Countries while they will to Admiration in another, and this is a good reason to prove, that they have not Wooll in France, that is to say, not enough to propagate a Manufacture; if such a known thing wanted any Evidence, which it never did till now, neither would it now if we had not People to deal with, who would deny Principles and maintain universal Mistakes.

This may be confirm'd by some other Examples of the Transplanting other brute Creatures out of one Country to another, and particularly from England, who change their very Nature and Constitution by the Change of the Soil: For example, If you carry a pack of English Hounds into France, if they are Fleet-Hounds they lose their Noses in Two or three Years, if Deep mouth'd Hounds they will lose their Noses, and the Ring or Mouth, which is so Musical here, and which adds to the Pleasure of the Sportsmen.

Again; If you carry an English Bull Dog into Holland, the Creature retains no more the fierceness of his Nature, his generous Courage, and the desperate Hardness which makes him so valuable here; but tho' he retains the fierce Countenance, he degenerates

into a little Cur as tame, cowardly and dull as a meer Mongrel, as we see in the little brindled Dutch Dogs which we have from Holland, which are the breed from our Bull-Dogs, which are just good for nothing.

Thus it is in our Running Horses, they lose their Speed; our Game Cocks lose their chearful Courage; and our Sheep lose their Wooll if Transplanted into other Countries; the true Reason is, the Soil and the Climate.

If it were not thus, why has one Country more excellent Breeds of Creatures than another? Why is one Country unable to produce what another Country abounds with?

Thus Heaven has given exclusive Blessings to several parts of the World, which none has the Grant of but themselves, and which no doubt was done for a Foundation of that extent of Commerce which so Universally was to spread over the whole World.

From hence it is manifest, that not our Manufacturers going abroad, whether by Persecution or otherwise, is not the business of the Mercator, no not carrying the Sheep abroad would hurt us, so as to carry our Manufactures abroad, if our Wooll be kept at home; which is the Substance of the whole.

From the Custom-House.

Exported to France in Four Days,
May 27, 28, 30. and June 1.

- 100 Stuffs
- 60 Spanish Cloths
- * 200 Druggets
- * 34 Spanish Cloths
- 24 Serges
- 10 pieces Double Bays
- 4 doz. Hose
- 48 lb. Wrought Silk Hose
- 800 Goads Cotton
- 1220 yards Flannel
- 5033 lb. Cotton Wooll
- 113 pieces East-India Silks
- 6 dozen Hats
- 3 C. Wrought Iron
- 3 C. Wrought Brass
- 15 dozen Calve-skins
- 14 Chairs and a Couch
- 7 C. Allom
- 39 Fodder 6 C. Lead
- 29 Ton 15 C. Copperas
- 5 Ton 13 C. Logwood
- 7 Ton Oil
- 14 C. Gauls
- 12 C. Nicoraga Wood
- 12 C. Brown Sugar
- 16 C. Painters Colours
- 156 lb. Pictures
- 156 lb. Pewter
- 10 C. Cheese
- 30 C. Bisket
- 35 quarter Flower
- 40 firkins Butter
- 7 C. Corrants
- 94254 lb. Virginia Tobacco
- 40 Gallons Canary
- 3 Gallons Citron Water
- 230 lb. Tortoiseshell

